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OUR AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE



Amaryllis Baillies - vittata

National Agricultural Library Special Collections

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Library

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**



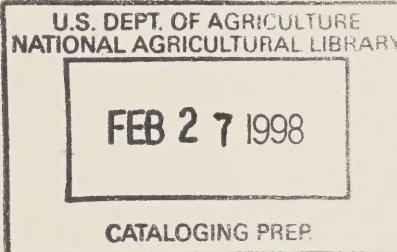
National Agricultural Library

Front Cover: Hybrid Amaryllis (*Amaryllis regina vittata*), illustration by Barbara Cotton; engraved by W. Say. From *Transactions of the Horticultural Society of London*. (1822), Vol. 5, Plate 15. From the Rare Book Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

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Ketmia indica, Iris latifolia, Alsine procumbens. From George Dionysius Ehret's *Plantae et papiliones rariores . . .*, 1748-59. Tab. VI. From the Rare Book Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

The Special Collections Program is a unique part of the National Agricultural Library (NAL). The Collection is comprised of original manuscripts, archival materials, over 50,000 rare books, a photo-browsing collection of 60,000 images, more than 100,000 slides, 13,000 maps, 1,200 posters, works of botanical art, audiovisual materials, oral histories, and one of the largest nursery and seed trade catalog collections in the world.

When the Department of Agriculture was established in 1862, Isaac Newton, the first Commissioner of Agriculture, placed near the top of his list the establishment of an agricultural library. It was his belief that "the most valuable work would gradually accumulate by exchange, gift and purchase, forming a rich mine of knowledge." Since that time, an important part of the collection building process has occurred through donations and gifts by individual Americans and private organizations.



Vase of flowers, illustration by P. T. v.
Brussel; engraved by H. L. Myerling.
From *Nederlandsch Bloemwerk* (1794),
detail from title page. From the Rare
Book Collection of the National
Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Highlighting agriculture's printed record of the past and housed in the collection are the published writings of many great herbalists such as Brunfels, Bock, and Fuchs, as well as renowned artworks on flowers and fruits from both the 18th and 19th centuries. International in scope, the subject range of Special Collections has strong concentrations of rare books in botany, natural history, zoology, and entomology. Extensive primary source literature documenting agricultural observations, experiments, and practices in England, Western Continental Europe, and America also are included. In addition to important travel accounts by early naturalists, there is an extensive collection of pre-Linneana imprints relating to the description of plants as well as a strong collection of original works by the eminent botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-78).

The NAL's growing manuscript collection is based primarily on donations. Particularly noteworthy among these are the following: the personal papers of Julian N. Friant (1888-1939), a special assistant to Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace; the personal papers of Charles North (1869-1961), physician, public health officer, and agricultural scientist; the organizational records of the Prince Family Nursery (1779-1914) and the American Association of Agricultural College Editors (1913-present); the M. Truman Fossum Floriculture Collection; the papers of Charles Valentine Riley (1843-95), entomologist, and John Davis, author of the Agribusiness Concept; and the papers of the United States Agricultural History Society.

Rare books and manuscript materials are noncirculating and must be used in the Special Collections Reading Room. Historical research assistance is available by appointment. Some items may be photocopied (depending on age, rarity, and condition) at a cost of \$5 for the first 10 pages and \$3 for each increment of 10 pages (or less) thereafter.

1756. Memoranda Relating to my Own Plantation Entered

1 M^r 1st This Day Took an Acc't of the Stock of Horses Cattle & Sheep etc on my Plantation & they are as follows -

Horses & Mares. ♂ W^r.

Gray, Old Sorrel, Buck, Black Mare, belonging to the East.

My two Brown Haired Horses. 5 Yrs Old & Past

My Riding Horse is White long tail. 12 Yrs Old & Past

Asian Mare... Appears Old Past,

7 mo old ♀. Allen 1 Story House & Barns 8 Years old -

Horned cattle 23. W^r.

18 Month (over) W^r.

Brindles

Red & Brown Cows.

Black & Gray (called Spottys)

Black D^r with white face

Ditto b^r of George Custard

Durham (one called Durham)

Brown D^r (called Browniey)

Red D^r with white face (Called Bloody)

Durham D^r w^t white face (called Van Horn)

Red & White Cow. Young (called Puffy)

These belong to my

Brother & his wife

Breeds & Cremiques

180 W^r

		How long lived in the Plantation.	What was the cause of their death.
			Since 1 st J ⁿ 1756.
3. Starry.		180. Took	old & thin
Mottled Brindles (called Spottys).	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Black D ^r with white face	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Ditto b ^r of George Custard	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Durham (one called Durham)	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Brown D ^r (called Browniey).	Raised. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Red D ^r with white face (Called Bloody).	Raised. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Durham D ^r w ^t white face (called Van Horn)	Changed for. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
Red & White Cow. Young (called Puffy)	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
	Raised. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
9. 4 Three Year Old Graftons	Raised. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
5. 1 Starling. Ditto	Raised. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
5. A Oxen. 6 Years Old Past & at Point	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
6. 1 Bull.	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	
23. 1 White Cow sent to Point to Winter.	Bought. W ^r	1756. old Robt Hopkins at Point	

Sheep full grown 42 -

Sheep. W^r.

1 Large black & 3 between colors

6 Pig Heats & myself.

1 Young lamb at my House of my Deer -

1756.

4 mo Bought 2 Cows. 160 & 1 Ryd of Newlands -

1 D^r. Black of Mr. Warner - 1 d^r 6 Shantmills

8 mo 1 D^r. Dark Brindle of Mrs. Miller - 1 d^r 15 sh 1 m^s

Daybook Account of the Stock of Cattle, Horses and Sheep on William Logan's Plantation, 1756. From the Manuscript Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



The cover of an early Burpee seed trade catalog entitled *Burpee's 1886 Farm Annual. Garden, Farm & Flower Seeds*. From the Seed Trade Catalog Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

Nursery and Seed Trade Catalogs Collection

This special reference collection was begun in 1904 by the Department's economic botanist, Percy Leroy Ricker. Ricker's enthusiastic interest included many trips to secondhand book stores and the attics of nursery companies in search of horticulturally related catalogs. By 1920, the collection consisted of 16,344 American and 3,185 foreign catalogs. By 1940, it had grown to over 65,000. Its purpose now, as then, is to provide information regarding sources, prices, descriptions of plant material offered for sale by U.S. nurserymen, growers, and seedsmen and, to a lesser extent, by foreign firms. The collection presently contains over 150,000 items. As a repository of nursery and seed trade catalogs, this collection continues to grow in importance for in-depth retrospective and historical research.

The NAL collection is strong in American catalogs since the 1890's and, also, has extensive coverage going back to the early 1800's. The oldest American catalog in the collection is a photoprint copy dated 1771 of a list issued by the William Prince Nursery. Other 18th-century catalogs for which there are photoprint copies are those issued by William Prince, dated 1790, 1793, and 1799, and by John Bartram and Co., 1790. The earliest original American catalogs in the collection are those issued by Bernard M'Mahon of Philadelphia in 1804, by Stedman and Floy in 1806, and by John Bartram and Son in 1807. Access and reference service to this collection is through Special Collections.



The cover of an early seed trade catalog entitled *Our New Guide to Rose Culture*, 1896. The Dingee Conard Co. From the Seed Trade Catalog Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



The cover of another early seed trade catalog entitled *From Cole's Seed Store*. From the Seed Trade Catalog Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

Photographs

The Forest Service historical photo collection — the largest photographic collection on the subject of forestry in the world — is an active part of the Special Collections program of the NAL. Begun in 1898 under the direction of Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service and an avid photographer, the collection today contains over one-half million images. The collection provides a pictorial documentation of the westward movement in America — the farmers, foresters, miners, cowboys, American Indians, scientists, and others who changed the face of the land. More than 400,000 of the images were taken prior to World War II.

Over the years photos from the Forest Service Collection have appeared in books and magazines issued by every major publisher in the United States. Scientists find it a unique resource for photos depicting natural resources, botany, geology, forestry, and biology. Historians find a wealth of unexpected detail about the westward movement as well as the settling of the land. Artists use the fine collection of botanical and scenic photos as sources of inspiration for their work.

Information about the collection is stored both in a large computer data base and on microfiche. The browsing files of the photo collection includes 60,000 captioned black-and-white prints. A recently completed laser disc contains over 34,000 black-and-white images arranged by subject. Visitors may browse in the self-service files and select images to borrow. Research assistance is available for laser disc and data base search and identification. Circulating photographs from the collection are loaned for a period of 2 months.

Negatives are not loaned. Negatives of older images are stored in the Photo Section at the National Archives and Records Administration and prints may be ordered from them.



"Frits" Sethe, Ranger from about 1910 to March, 1915, on the Wind River Ranger District [Columbia National Forest (now Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington)], 1910. From the Forest Service Photo Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



A collection of images from the Slide Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

Slides and Other Audiovisual Media

An extensive collection of slides contains historical and contemporary color images which depict a wide range of American scenery. The collection spans a multitude of subjects from agriculture, national forests, waterways, recreation, and natural resources to scientific documentation in such areas as insects, vegetation, and wildlife management. About 500 color slides are included on the laser disc. Slides, slide/audio-tape and audio-cassette sets, along with an expanding collection of video tapes and motion pictures, are loaned for a period of 2 months and may be previewed in the Audiovisuals Viewing Room.



Maps and Posters

Maps, posters, and original art works are noncirculating items and may be viewed in the Special Collections Reading Room. The maps, of which there are 13,000, generally relate to soil classification, national forests, land use, annual precipitation, vegetation, and erosion control but also include thematic topics such as transportation, regional farming, the spread and distribution of certain insects, and plant and animal diseases. The maps date from the 1870's but most were prepared during the 20th century.

In addition, there are 3,000 soil maps which are found in the published soil surveys issued by the United States and many other countries. Most soil survey volumes contain large-scale, fold-out maps. NAL also has a complete set of aerial photographic composite mosaic indexes prepared by the USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Aerial Photography Field Office, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The set includes some 70,000 prints for the period 1940-75.

The poster collection depicts such areas as the development of the poultry industry, insect control, plant protection, and the role of agriculture in World War I. From increased production to seed selection to the conservation of farm products through careful storage, canning, drying, and preserving, these historic posters present unique and attractive documentation on past efforts to disseminate agricultural information at national, State, and local levels.

The Fruits of Victory



Copyright, 1918, by P. M. Layton, Publisher, (Inc.)

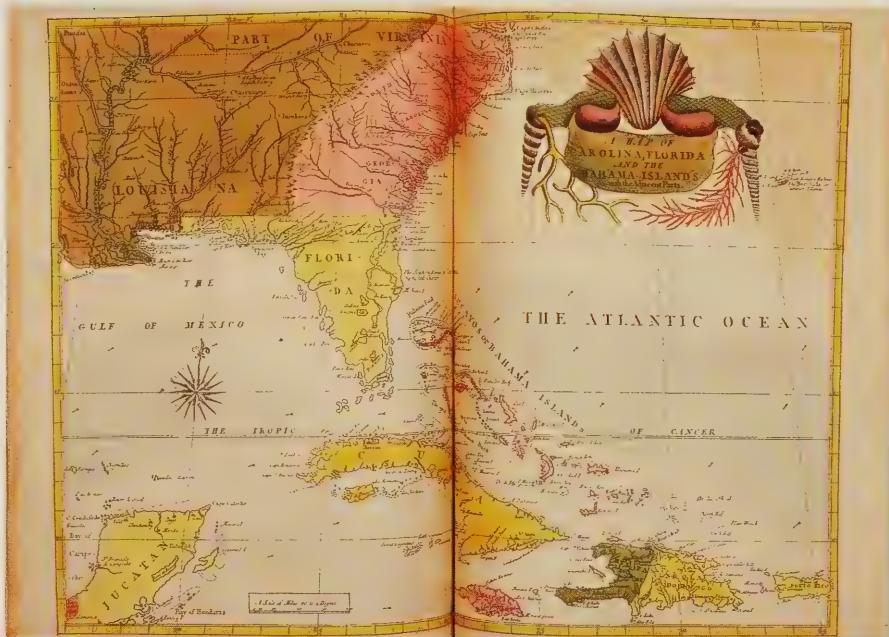
MAY 29 1918

Write for Free Book to
National War Garden Commission
Washington, D. C.

Charles Lathrop Pack, President

P. S. Ridsdale, Secretary

A World War I Poster. From the Poster Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



An early map of the Carolinas, Florida and the Bahama Islands. From Mark Catesby's *Natural History of the Carolinas, Florida and the Bahama Islands*; . . . London. 1731-43. From the Rare Book Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



A modern map of South America. Map of the Americas, No. 3. By the American Geographical Society of New York. From the Map Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.

Special Collections Reading Room

Located on the 14th floor, this specialized research facility, with its visiting scholar room and balcony view of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, was designed to dramatize the NAL's unique collection of agriculturally related research treasures. Exhibits documenting the history of agriculture provide an inviting and stimulating environment in which to work and study. The Riley Permanent Exhibit corner features memorabilia commemorating Charles Valentine Riley — distinguished 19th century pioneer scientist and entomologist, and USDA's chief entomologist from 1881-94.

More than 500 reference books in all subject fields related to agricultural history are available for use. These include early farm implements, structures and crafts, and early botany, as well as some guides to other historical collections in agriculture. Research assistance is provided. Through exhibits, displays, talks and symposiums, individuals and organizations in both the public and private sectors learn more about the Special Collections Program.



A view of the Special Collections Reading Room on the 14th Floor of the National Agricultural Library Building in Beltsville, Maryland.

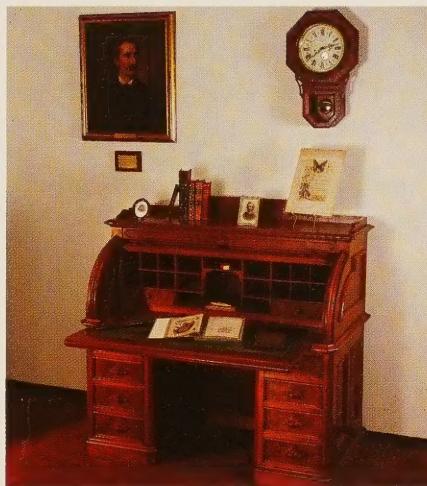
Location and Office Hours

The Special Collections Reading Room is located on the 14th Floor of the NAL. It is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

For additional information, call or write:

National Agricultural Library
Special Collections
14th Floor
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

(301) 344-3875



The desk of Charles Valentine Riley, first Chief of USDA's Bureau of Entomology, considered by many to be the father of biological control of insects in America. From the Charles Valentine Riley Permanent Exhibit which is a part of the Charles Valentine Riley Collection in the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



Pinus sylvestris. From F. L. Kreb's *Vollständige Beschreibung und Abbildung der sammtlichen Holzarten, welche im mittleren und nördlichen Deutschland wild wachsen*. Brunswick, Ohme and Müller. 1827-[1835]. Tab. 54. From the Rare Book Collection of the National Agricultural Library, Special Collections.



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P L . XXVII



To Her Grace the Dutchess of Norfolk
This Plate is humbly dedicated by
M. Harris ad Tenebram.



Duchess of Norfolk
Her Grace's most devoted Servt.
Moses Harris.